

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600

Minutes of the Tuesday, April 3, 2012 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:20 pm on Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members L. Caprioglio, S. Carroll, F. Esposito, M. Palmer, D. Stillinger.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: to undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2012 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and mentioned on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. It has also been published in the Chatham Courier and Daily Record newspapers. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2012 AND JANUARY 2013.

Every first Tuesday (except no meeting in July) at 7:15 PM at the Chatham Township Municipal Building: Second Tuesday, Jan 10, 2012, first Tuesdays Feb. 7, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July no meeting, August 7, Sept. 4, October 2, November 6, December 4, and January 8 (second Tuesday), 2013.

CTEC and Green Team minutes from March 6, 2012 were approved, motioned by Lou Caprioglio and Frank Esposito 2nd with all in favor, with one minor typo edit.

Green Team Meeting

S. Carroll, Green Team Chair - 7:44-8:20

Sustainable Jersey Actions have all been reviewed. Deadline to receive certificate of award at League of Municipalities luncheon (November) is August 8th. Otherwise, 12/31/12 is deadline.

Actions – National Resource Inventory (NRI) –pressing to get done by 8/8/12.

Reviewed sure points and key points

Green fair with borough, qualifies for 20 points. This project needs a supervisor. Steve will take lead, Frank and Matt will assist.

Green Building needs resolution for Green Development checklist

Anti –idling – not enough done to be considered.

It was suggested that all CTEC members bring their laptops so that there will be no need to set-up projector. Further discussion at next meeting.

Consider “Pledge Supporting NJ Wildlife Action Plan”. Steve will collect and distribute material. Doing so results in significant benefits for animals, people, and the environment. Dot Stillinger.

REVISED STEEP SLOPES ORDINANCE - DISCUSSION

CTEC discussed the proposed ordinance and felt that this is not well suited for Chatham Township. This was written for a township with 5 acre lots and farms. Commission members believe that a detailed ordinance for smaller lots, based on category of slope is better for the Township. Members agreed to hold off comments until Mayor Hagner reviews and addresses proposed ordinance.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

PENDING. LONGVIEW/FENIX. 2-2-11. Block 32 Lots 2, 6 and 8, Block 33, Lots 1, 14, 17 and 20. Ronald Gunn. Longview Road. R-3 (half-acre) zone. Application to Planning Board for 7 lot major subdivision on Longview Road. Propose to subdivide existing upper 4 lots into 7 lots. Requesting C(2) hardship variances for disturbance of steep slopes, height of structural retaining walls. Three of the current 4 upper lots have 25% slopes on less than a

fifth of the lot. Proposed lots will be sewer; there is a utility easement across an off-site lower lot to provide sewer access. Two nearby homes are on septic and one home is on well water. 156 trees over 12" in diameter including at least 9 of 30" or more in diameter are proposed to be removed. Site visit was Sat. Dec. 3, 2011. New plans call for a conservation easement on the stormwater basin lots and a "tree non-disturbance easement" on a 20 foot wide strip along the rear of the upper lots.

PENDING. Currie, 43 Susan Drive, B 20 L 15. 7-22-11. Application to Board of Adjustment for variance for proposed single family dwelling on steep slopes. This parcel is on the lower side of the road near where a previous construction project caused damage to downslope neighbors. Site visit was Sat. Dec. 3, 2011. Applicant or representatives did not attend. Application may have been before the BOA on January 26, 2012. Memo was sent from CTEC to BOA.

PENDING. D'onofrio, 29 Candace Lane, B 38 L 31. 8-26-11. Application to Board of Adjustment for rear yard setback to construct an addition. Steep slopes. Waiting for completeness review.

PENDING. Russo, B 39 L 30, 112 Candace Lane. 7-27-11. Application to Board of Adjustment for variance for rear yard setback to construct a deck. There is a conservation easement on the steep slopes. Waiting for completeness review.

PENDING. PSE&G expansion of power line right-of-way. 6-13-11, application to NJDEP for freshwater wetlands general permit to do construction work along the ROW. Memo to NJDEP with a similar memo to NJBPU was mailed and also was presented at the public hearing on Thursday, September 8, 2011.

PENDING. Rolling Knolls Superfund site at the end of Britten Road. No new information.

REPORTS

Planning Board report. L. Caprioglio, Planning Board liaison. Market Garden ordinance was introduced at the March 8th Township Committee meeting. GeoTech report was received but has not been discussed. At next meeting Longview applicant's application will be addressed by their planner.

Township Committee report. K. Abbott.

Open Space Committee report. P. Collington, S. Krishnan - Open Space Committee liaisons.

Community Education and Outreach Committee report. P. Collington - Chair.

ECO FILM - Living on no energy – carbon footprint. April 11th - Pat and Frank will present at the Senior Citizen Center single stream recycling and current recycling guidelines and the "Green Challenge".

Communications Committee report. F. Esposito - Chair, P. Collington. All NRI maps will be posted to township web site.

Recycling Committee report. F. Esposito, Chair. Tanglewood & sewer plant tour Sat, May 12th 9 am.

New signs posted at Tanglewood. Morris County recycling electronic fair at the High School 6/23 9-2 pm. MUA raised its rates regarding removal of brush, grass and similar items. Received a notice addressing mandated plastic recycling items, this will be post on twp website.

May 9th, tour of Mt. Olive recycling plant.

DISCUSSION/ACTIONS

- Report on environmental commissioner training in Bernards Township on March 12. F. Esposito.
- On June 23 the MCMUA will host the county's residential Household Hazardous Waste event at the high school. K. Abbott.
- NRI revision. NRI Committee met on 9-6-11, 10-8-11, 10-24-11, 11-14-11, 2-1-12, 2-22-12. Subcommittee will do most of the updating with volunteers. All welcome to participate. Visit <http://allcat.tzo.com> to view the current draft which will soon also be on the Township website. S. Carroll, S. Krishnan, D. Stillinger, M. Palmer.
- Safe Routes to School - update.
- Note alternatives being proposed for Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The word on the street is that Option B is most favored. Read the Plan at

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Great%20Swamp/ccphome.html>.

- 10th Annual Cleanup, Saturday, April 21, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM. If you wish, choose a task.
- Student volunteers for CTEC. Activities, projects. P. Collington, F. Esposito.
- Identify a stormwater mitigation project to make use of funds in escrow account of East Park Builders, which is unable to meet its stormwater requirements on site on Mountainview Ave.
- A memo was submitted to the Township Committee asking for open space tax funds to clean up an old household trash dump, now called the Green Village Pond Conservation Area, on Township property on Green Village Road to make possible a future nature trail. Project will be continued. D. Stillinger.
- PSE&G's proposed power line upgrade. About 2.5 miles are in Chatham Township. Of the 15 towns along the route Chatham Township has the second-longest run, after Livingston's 10 miles. Berkeley Heights has about 2 miles. Please let D. Stillinger know if you see contractors working in the ROW along with their company name and anything else you think is important.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- March 2012. Memo to NJDEP concerning wetlands permit application for building improvements, Simonfay, 118 Westminster Road, B 48.10 L7. Memo to NJDEP concerning wetlands permit application, PSE&G gas line maintenance.
- February 2012. Memo to Board of Adjustment concerning Currie, 43 Susan Drive, B 20 L 15 building on steep slopes.
- January 2012. Letter sent to Township Committee urging purchase of a gas rather than diesel backup generator for the sewage treatment plant at Chatham Glen.
- October 2011. Letter sent to Mayor Hagner commending Morris E. Enyeart (Township Webmaster-City Connections LLC) and Tom Salvas (Manager-Chatham Township Governmental Access TV / Electronic Community Bulletin Board) for their outstanding work and tremendous help in greatly improving CTEC's website, archiving, and public service communications. Letter (in e-mail form) sent to Senator Menendez urging full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

EVENTS

- April 15, Sunday, GreenFaith and AP Solar will offer homeowners the opportunity to be screened for a zero-cost solar installation that would provide them with discounted electricity. There will be a monitor set up in Parish Hall, and interested homeowners can have their home screened via satellite photos to see if their roof appears to be suitable for solar.
- April 21, Saturday, CTEC 10th Annual Cleanup next to Oak Knoll parking lot. Help out any time between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm.
- April 24, Tuesday, 1-7:30 pm, 25th anniversary of the signing of New Jersey's Source Separation and Recycling Act. Former Governor Thomas Kean. The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, Campus Center, 101 Vera King Farris Drive, Galloway, NJ 08205. www.acua.com/RC25.
- April 28, High School Fair, Steve Carroll - NJ Clean Energy
- April 28, Saturday, Morris County Park Department's Earth Day Celebration, Lewis Morris Park. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$3.
- May 2, 2012, Wednesday, Morris County Green Table Forum, Long Term Open Space Planning for Flood Prone Areas (Discussing the new Morris County Flood Mitigation Program), 8 a.m., Frelinghuysen Arboretum. www.morrisgreentable.org
- May 5 & 6, Saturday and Sunday, 17th Annual Plant Sale, Frelinghuysen Arboretum. morrisparks.net.
- May 6, Sunday. Morris Parks presents Go Wild for Nature, Outdoor Education Center. morrisparks.net.
- May 12, 2012, Saturday, 8 am – 5 pm, New Jersey Environmental Federation's 26th annual environmental conference: "Recharge the Economy, Invest in the Environment" will be held at Rutgers University Center for Law & Justice in Newark, NJ.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Chatham Borough and Long Hill Environmental Commissions.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN 9:38 PM

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary